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Letter dated 29 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Togo held the presidency of the Security Council for the month of May 2013. An assessment of the work of the Council has been prepared under my supervision in consultation with the other members of the Council (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kodjo **Menan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 29 October 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Togo (May 2013)

Under the presidency of Togo in May 2013, the Security Council held 13 public meetings and 12 closed consultations. It also held one private meeting, two informal interactive dialogues and one Arria-formula meeting.

The Council adopted three resolutions and two presidential statements and issued nine statements to the press.

Africa

Somalia

On 2 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2102 (2013), by which it established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), with a mandate to provide good offices functions in support of the peace and reconciliation process of the Federal Government of Somalia, and to provide strategic policy advice on peacebuilding and State-building as appropriate. The Mission would also assist the Government in coordinating international donor support, particularly on security sector reform and maritime security, and in building its capacity to promote respect for human rights, women's empowerment and child protection, prevent conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence and strengthen Somalia's justice institutions. UNSOM would also monitor, investigate and report on human rights violations and abuses. The Council decided that UNSOM would be headed by a Special Representative of the Secretary-General, based in Mogadishu and established by 3 June 2013 for an initial period of 12 months, and be renewed as appropriate.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 6 May, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Mary Robinson, briefed the Council on recent developments in the political, security and humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

She reported on her visit, from 28 April to 5 May, to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and other States of the region, including Rwanda and Uganda. Her discussions with the leaders of those countries, the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and representatives of civil society, and her meeting in Addis Ababa with the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, had focused on the effective implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Region, signed in Addis Ababa on 24 February 2013. She had noted a commitment on the part of all stakeholders to making determined efforts to ensure the success of the new United Nations approach to peace, but the situation remained fragile and only an effective monitoring of the entire process, a coordinated and concerted approach for a negotiated political solution rather than a military one, could lead to

a positive outcome. Hence, she called on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to remain committed to the Kampala talks and on the Mouvement du 23 mars (M23) to return to the negotiating table without delay in order to conclude a peace agreement as soon as possible.

In their statements, the Council members called on all those involved in resolving the crisis, in particular the countries of the region, to respect scrupulously and implement effectively the commitments undertaken. They also invited the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and M23 to resume dialogue immediately in order to reach a sustainable solution to the crisis. They stressed the need for the Government to remain strongly committed to the comprehensive peace process and to implement as soon as possible the reforms mentioned in the Framework. Some members highlighted the need to turn the vicious circle of illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo into a virtuous circle of regional economic cooperation.

On 8 May, the Council held urgent consultations following the attack perpetrated the previous day in Walungu, South Kivu, against a convoy of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), which had resulted in the death of one Pakistani peacekeeper.

In his briefing, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Edmond Mulet, said that investigations were ongoing to identify those responsible, who should in due course be brought to justice.

The Council members unanimously strongly condemned the attack and requested the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to work closely with MONUSCO to apprehend those responsible for that criminal act. They expressed their condolences to the Government of Pakistan and the family of the peacekeeper killed in the attack, and emphasized the need to improve the safety and security of all Mission personnel. Following that meeting, the Council members issued a statement to the press, in which they reflected their condemnation of the attack and attempted hostage-taking.

On 29 May, the Council held closed consultations on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, during which the Secretary-General gave a briefing on his mission to that country and to other States of the subregion before participating in the first meeting of the regional oversight mechanism of the Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework, held in Addis Ababa on the sidelines of the celebration of the African Union's fiftieth anniversary. He said that he had been accompanied to the Great Lakes region by the President of the World Bank. The Secretary-General was optimistic about the success of the new United Nations strategy for peace in the region, which has great potential in respect of natural resources.

He informed the Council that he had drawn the attention of the Presidents of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda to the political, security and economic components of the "framework of hope" as well as the strengthening of the support of the international community, which were prerequisites for the restoration of sustainable peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and throughout the region. On that last point, he welcomed the announcement by the President of the World Bank of additional assistance in the amount of $1 billion to further the socioeconomic development and regional

integration efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all the countries of the region.

Referring to the circumstances in the Central African Republic, he strongly encouraged the Council to consider all possible options for helping to redress the situation in that country, including individual sanctions against those responsible for various types of abuses and grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

In their statements, the Council members welcomed the convening of the first meeting of the regional oversight mechanism and the World Bank's announcement of additional financial assistance for the peace and development process launched under that framework. The Council members called on the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the countries of the region to uphold their commitments and to take ownership of the instruments established for the peace process in order to bring about stability and sustainable socioeconomic development in the region.

They placed particular emphasis on the need for the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to carry out security sector reform. The Council members also condemned the resumption of hostilities between the Congolese army and M23, and called on the Government and the rebels to resume their dialogue immediately.

One delegation proposed that the Council follow the Secretary-General's lead by organizing a visit to the region, as such a visit would lend strong political support to the United Nations-backed peace process.

Some delegations expressed concern about the ongoing preparations initiated by the Secretariat with a view to using unmanned aerial vehicles in other peacekeeping missions, in particular in Côte d'Ivoire. They stressed that any proliferation of that practice could be possible only after thorough assessment of their trial use by MONUSCO. Other delegations indicated that they were ready to support the use of unmanned aerial vehicles in missions beyond MONUSCO without that step.

Libya

On 7 May, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Fatou Bensouda, on the situation in Libya. The Prosecutor addressed the issue of the challenge of the admissibility of the cases of *Saif al-Islam Qadhafi* and *Abdullah al-Senussi* before the Court, and the necessity for the protection and security of judges, the Prosecutor and staff of the Court in the execution of their mandate.

Following the opening remarks, Council members focused their discussions on the admissibility challenges, many Council members affirming that Libya is a perfect example and laboratory of applied complementarity within the framework of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Others insisted on the Court not competing with national jurisdictions, the necessity to protect judges, prosecutors and staff, and for cooperation and support to the Court. The Prosecutor indicated that it was important for the Council to follow up on Court matters, by way of a presidential statement or resolution and also through exchange of information in relation to specific cases.

On 8 May, the Security Council heard a briefing by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on the situation in Libya. The Prosecutor said that the Council had referred the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court. She explained that since Libya had filed admissibility challenges with regard to the cases concerning *Saif al-Islam Qadhafi* and *Abdullah al-Senussi* before the Court, her Office had suspended investigations into those cases pending a ruling by the Pre-Trial Chamber. She said that only that Chamber could declare those cases inadmissible before the Court. She reported that her Office had opened investigations concerning officials of the former regime who were suspected of crimes but were currently living outside Libyan territory. Her Office was also investigating crimes committed by rebel forces, including the persecution and expulsion of ethnic groups, such as those in Tawergha, who were accused of having supported the Qadhafi regime. Her Office had held fruitful preliminary discussions with the Libyan authorities to advance the investigations both within and outside Libya.

Several members of the Council hailed the progress made in Libya in building social cohesiveness and stability and called on the Libyan authorities to consolidate those advances by respecting human rights and combating impunity.

Virtually all the Council members recalled that, in accordance with the principle of complementarity, it was for the Court to determine whether to uphold Libya's admissibility challenge and allow Libya to investigate and prosecute Saif al-Islam Qadhafi and Abdullah al-Senussi. Some Council members expressed concerns about Libya's capacity to guarantee due process, as the Libyan authorities did not appear to control the entire territory and Saif al-Islam Qadhafi was still being detained in Zintan at the hands of the rebels.

Some members of the Council considered that, while the Council's referral of the situation in Libya to the International Criminal Court had promoted reform of the justice system in Libya, there remained many complex challenges with respect to the authorities' willingness to carry out investigations and institute proceedings at the national level. Several members of the Council stated that Libya must respect the Pre-Trial Chamber's rulings on admissibility, whatever their outcome. Some members said that even if the Chamber ruled in favour of Libya's admissibility challenges, the Court should continue to play an oversight role in the proceedings.

Delegations praised the investigations and prosecutions of crimes by the Court in Libya. Some delegations stressed a lack of progress concerning crimes committed by Libyan rebels as well as allegations of crimes committed in the course of the NATO-led military operations in Libya.

On 13 May, following the Benghazi attack, the Council issued a statement to the press, in which its members condemned in the strongest terms the deadly attack, which had caused numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the victims of that act, and to the Government and people of Libya. They underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of that act to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Libyan authorities in that regard.

Sudan and South Sudan

On 9 May, the Council held its first consultations of the month on the Sudan and South Sudan. In a presentation to the Council on the situation between the two countries, the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Haile Menkerios, recalled the tragic incident of 4 May in the Abyei area, which resulted in the deaths of the Paramount Chief of the Ngok Dinka and one peacekeeper of the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), and left three others wounded. He noted his visits to the two countries following the incident and meetings with the Presidents of the Sudan and South Sudan and a number of senior officials of both countries. They had discussed various approaches for addressing the root causes of the conflict and for finding ways to resolve outstanding issues. He added that after the incident the Presidents had maintained regular contacts and responded proactively to calm the situation. He had called for immediate action to make Abyei arms-free and for a credible and transparent investigation of the incident. He also urged both sides to press for the speedy establishment by the parties of the temporary institutions in Abyei, including the administration and the police service. On the question of direct talks between the Government of the Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N), the Special Envoy noted that the draft declaration of common intent submitted by the African Union High-level Implementation Panel should be accepted by both parties. He also said that there was a risk that the hostilities in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile would spread to other parts of the Sudan and that the Sudanese Revolutionary Front (SRF) would open a new front in the east of the country. He also reported that both sides had agreed to a one-week moratorium in fighting to allow for a vaccination programme for children. SRF was trying to show that it has a national agenda. The drafting of a new Constitution provided an opportunity to address not solely problems in the Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile regions but also issues of governance and participation by all regions in governing the country.

The Council members welcomed the proactive responses of the two Presidents after the incident of 4 May. They commended the African Union High-level Implementation Panel on its commitment and underlined the need to monitor the progress made by both sides. They stressed that the parties had recently displayed a willingness to move forward on the implementation of resolution 2046 (2012), and that the Council should support the parties and the Panel.

Regarding the tragic incident of 4 May, the Council members issued a statement to the press on 6 May, in which they condemned the attack by Misseriya elements and expressed their condolences to the families of those killed in the attack, the Ngok Dinka community, the Government of Ethiopia and UNISFA. They welcomed the announcement by the Government of the Sudan of an urgent, transparent, thorough and fair investigation into the incident, as well as its pledge to bring the perpetrators to justice.

On 16 May, the Council considered, in closed consultations, the report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) concerning the Sudan. The Chair of the Committee and Permanent Representative of Argentina, María Cristina Perceval, reported on the Committee's activities during the period from 7 February to 16 May 2013.

She reported that the Committee had held informal consultations with the new Panel of Experts, in advance of their planned six months in the Sudan. Four of the

five Panel members, but not the finance expert, who have been issued two-month single-entry visas, had travelled to the Sudan. She noted that the Permanent Representative of the Sudan, with whom she spoke, emphasized that anyone who might threaten the security of the Sudan would be denied entry into the country and that the Security Council should bear that in mind in appointing new Panel members. Several Council members regretted that the finance expert had been denied a visa, and deplored the bureaucratic impediments hampering the experts' work.

The Chair noted that the Committee had accepted the Panel's proposal to submit the interim report by 31 July 2013, the midterm report by 31 October 2013 and the final report by 17 February 2014. The Committee also approved the updated list of individuals and entities subject to the travel ban and asset freeze.

Council members expressed their concern about the deteriorating security situation in Darfur. Some members called for continued efforts to raise awareness among States that provided military aid to the Sudan, as the weapons supplied to that country could be used in Darfur. They also deplored continued violations of the sanctions regime, and directed that the final report of the Panel of Experts should highlight violations of international humanitarian law and contain information on child recruitment.

The Council members urged all parties involved in the Darfur conflict, in particular armed movements that had not signed the Doha Document, to cease hostilities, respect international humanitarian law and engage fully and unconditionally in the peaceful settlement of the conflict. They noted the importance of imposing sanctions against all those who were blocking the restoration of peace in Darfur.

On 23 May, in closed consultations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the situation between the Sudan and South Sudan and presented the report of the Secretary-General of 17 May on the situation in Abyei.

Regarding the Sudan and South Sudan, he said that there had been no substantial developments in relation to outstanding issues since the last presentation to the Council, and that direct negotiations between the Government of the Sudan and SPLM-N would resume early in June. He pointed out that following the recent attacks by SRF the Government of the Sudan accused the Government of South Sudan of supporting the rebels in the Sudan. He indicated that the two Presidents would meet at the African Union summit in Addis Ababa on 25 and 26 May. He urged the Council and the international community to press the parties to fulfil their obligations.

The Council members condemned the SRF attacks and urged the parties to use existing tools, in particular resolution 2046 (2012), to settle their differences. Some members condemned the aerial bombardments and regretted that the Council had been unable to agree to send a message to the parties and ascribe responsibility whenever necessary, implicitly referring to the draft presidential statement proposed by the United States of America, which the Council had been unable to adopt.

Concerning UNISFA, the Assistant Secretary-General, introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/294), said that during the reporting period the situation in the Abyei area had remained generally calm, although there had been

several incidents, the most serious of which was the attack on 4 May on a UNISFA convoy and a delegation from the Ngok Dinka tribe. He said that the two communities were still armed and UNISFA had continued to implement its multifaceted conflict prevention and mitigation strategy. However, the vacuum resulting from a lack of any administrative or law and order institutions continued to create a serious burden for UNISFA.

With respect to political developments, he said that very little progress had been made on the implementation of the Agreement of 20 June 2011. The parties had not resolved their dispute over the composition of the Abyei Area Council; that was also preventing the establishment of the other temporary institutions, namely the Abyei Area Administration and the Abyei Police Service. Furthermore, no progress had been made on the resolution of the final status of Abyei.

The Assistant Secretary-General urged the leadership of the two communities, the Misseriya and the Ngok Dinka, to ensure that their members did not carry weapons inside the Abyei area and to establish an intercommunal dialogue to decrease tensions. He also urged the parties to take immediate measures to ensure the complete withdrawal of all unauthorized armed elements and also prevent the entry of those elements into the Abyei area. He requested the Security Council to grant an increase in the authorized strength of the UNISFA military component by 1,126 personnel.

The Council members deplored the deterioration in the security situation in the Abyei area. They urged the two parties to fulfil their commitments with respect to Abyei and called on the two Presidents to consider the question of the final status of the area. They supported the renewal of the UNISFA mandate and the proposal to increase the Force's military strength by 1,126 personnel.

On 29 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2104 (2013), by which it extended the mandate of UNISFA until 30 November 2013 and increased the authorized troop ceiling to 5,326 to enable the Force to support fully the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism. The Council, inter alia, urged the Governments of the Sudan and South Sudan to take steps immediately to implement confidence-building measures among the respective communities in the Abyei area, and urged all such communities to exercise maximum restraint in all their engagements and to desist from inflammatory acts or statements that might lead to violent clashes.

In a statement following the adoption of the resolution, the representative of South Sudan reaffirmed his country's commitment to cooperation with the Security Council. He commended the work of UNISFA and the critical troop contribution of Ethiopia. He said that the increase in the Force's troop ceiling would support stability in the border areas between the two States. He called for an international investigation to determine the causes of the incident of 4 May 2013.

The representative of the Sudan said that he welcomed the extension of the UNISFA mandate and the increase in its troops to enable it to monitor the safe demilitarized border zone. He declared that his country had condemned the recent incident in Abyei and had insisted that it should be investigated and the perpetrators apprehended and tried. He concluded that his country was keen to normalize its relations with South Sudan and that South Sudan should respect the agreements it had signed and refrain from supporting the rebels.

Guinea-Bissau

On 9 May, the Council held a meeting followed by closed consultations on the situation in Guinea-Bissau, focusing in particular on the assessment of the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS).

The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNIOGBIS, José Ramos-Horta, introducing the report of the Secretary-General (S/2013/262), said that connivance between the political elite and the military was the root cause of failed leadership in Guinea-Bissau, resulting in human rights violations and fostering impunity, organized crime and drug trafficking in that country. He added that recent political developments in the country had been positive, including the signing, on 30 April, of an agreement among the country's stakeholders concerning the political transition and anticipated adoption of a new "regime pact", and road map for the conduct of elections in 2013 and the formation of an inclusive transitional government within a short time. He also highlighted the need for the international community to strengthen its support for Guinea-Bissau in order to promote the restoration of constitutional order, stability in the short, medium and long terms, and development.

Statements were also made by the Permanent Representative of Brazil and Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti; the Permanent Representative of Guinea-Bissau, João Soares Da Gama; the Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, Youssoufou Bamba, speaking on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and the Permanent Representative of Mozambique, António Gumende, speaking on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries.

In consultations, the Council members said that it was important to continue to press the stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau to ensure that the consultations under way would lead to the speedy adoption of the new regime pact, with a view to the conduct of elections by the end of 2013. They urged the Special Representative to press the political leaders of Guinea-Bissau to make more determined efforts to combat impunity and drug trafficking. They regretted that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had closed its presence in Guinea-Bissau, for lack of resources, and stressed the need to find an appropriate mechanism for sharing information on the phenomenon and punishing traffickers. However, the Secretary-General's suggestion on the establishment of a panel of experts on drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau was not seen by all members of the Council as the most effective way to address this challenge.

On 22 May, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2103 (2013), by which it extended the mandate of UNIOGBIS until 31 May 2014, while readjusting its focus as recommended by the Secretary-General to enable the Office, first, to support the return to constitutional order through free, fair and transparent elections, and then, after the elections, to assist in strengthening democratic State institutions through reforms, especially in the security and justice sectors, and in combating impunity and drug trafficking. On that last point, the Council expressed the need for a strong United Nations presence in Guinea-Bissau to combat the phenomenon, and encouraged the country's partners to contribute to support the return of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to Guinea-Bissau. In the resolution the Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide an anti-drug component within

UNIOGBIS, including appropriate expertise, to provide better information on the phenomenon. It invited the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to share all relevant information with the Committee established pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012), particularly in relation to the implementation of paragraphs 6 and 7 thereof.

Central African Republic

On 15 May, the Council held a public meeting followed by consultations on the situation in the Central African Republic. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Margaret Vogt, introduced the report of the Secretary-General at that meeting.

The Prime Minister of the transitional Government of the Central African Republic, Nicolas Tiangaye, and the Permanent Representative of Chad, speaking on behalf of the presidency of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), also participated in the meeting.

In her briefing, the Special Representative said that the security and humanitarian situation in the country was steadily deteriorating as a result of looting, destruction of public and private property, abuses of all kinds and grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. She added that the country was in a state of collapse in which everything was in need of rebuilding and failing to the extent that it would be impossible, even after security was restored, to register voters in order to ensure a credible electoral process and restore a democratically elected regime. She deplored the fact that, despite the existence of a well-defined framework for the political transition, based on the Libreville Agreements and the outcomes of the extraordinary summits of ECCAS, the Head of the Transition, Michel Djotodia, continued to rule by decree, and even claimed to have the power to remove the Prime Minister from office. She urged that the Prime Minister, who represented the credible and legitimate face of the Central African transition, should be strongly supported by the international community and in particular by the United Nations, which should also ensure his security, which was increasingly under threat.

In order to meet the most urgent needs of the Central African people, she recommended the following measures: urgent deployment of an international force to protect the civilian population, followed by the launching of a viable security sector reform programme; speedy adoption by the Security Council of individual sanctions against rebels responsible for grave abuses and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, in order to put an end to those acts and to impunity; the recomposition, as soon as possible, of the National Transitional Council so as to make it more representative of the various sociopolitical groups in the Central African Republic, while clearly and precisely setting out the responsibilities of the Head of the Transition and the Prime Minister; and mobilization of the necessary funding, not only for the provision of humanitarian assistance to displaced populations but also to forestall an acute food crisis in the country.

In his statement, the Prime Minister said that his country was experiencing an unprecedented security, humanitarian and political crisis, with the complete collapse of State institutions, anarchy and chaos, as well as the total disintegration of the army and law enforcement. Given that situation, he called on the international community, in particular the United Nations, to respond without delay. He appealed

for outside support for restoring peace and security, providing financial and humanitarian assistance and rebuilding his country. He requested the United Nations to appoint a special rapporteur to investigate human rights violations in order to prosecute their perpetrators and sponsors in national and international courts alike.

The representative of Chad underlined the need for the international community to come to the assistance of the Central African Republic to prevent the harmful effects of the crisis from spreading throughout the region.

In the consultations that followed the public meeting, the Council members expressed grave concern at the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. They denounced and condemned the continuation of grave abuses and violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, warning the perpetrators and sponsors that they would be held accountable for their actions in court. They highlighted the need to take urgent measures to restore security and to put a stop to the abuses, and called for the prompt reinforcement of the ECCAS Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX) with support from the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

Central Africa

On 29 May, the Council held a public meeting to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) and on the Lord's Resistance Army-affected areas (S/2013/297). The report was introduced by the Special Representative for Central Africa and Head of UNOCA, Abou Moussa.

He said that the general situation in the region was characterized by relative stability in the political, economic and security spheres, with the notable exception of the Central African Republic, where chaos had prevailed since the Séléka coalition had seized power by force, and the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which was plagued by recurrent instability. He also referred to the activities of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), which posed a threat to the civilian populations of the countries where that armed group was active. In recent months UNOCA had taken a number of initiatives in the region to address the challenges related to peacemaking and peacebuilding.

Given all those challenges, he emphasized the need for the countries of the region to take appropriate measures to counter the growing problem of youth unemployment, which posed a potential threat to peace and stability in Central Africa, and the phenomenon of elephant poaching, as the illegal ivory trade was being used to fund the activities of armed rebel groups.

In their statements, the Council members welcomed the progress made by the Central African countries in strengthening democracy and economic governance, although they expressed serious concern about the security and humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic, after the Séléka takeover. With respect to LRA, the Council members reiterated their strong support for the strategy for combating that armed group. They welcomed the strategy and the finalization of the concept of operations of the African Union Regional Task Force. Several members stressed the need for all the States of the region to cooperate with the International

Criminal Court by swiftly carrying out the international arrest warrants issued for Joseph Kony and his principal lieutenants.

In relation to efforts to combat piracy at sea, the Council members welcomed the forthcoming convening, in Yaoundé in June 2013, of a summit of Heads of State and Government of Central and West Africa on the issue, and expressed the hope that the outcome of that gathering would help to strengthen the strategy for combating that scourge.

At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2013/6) in which it welcomed the conclusions of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict, adopted on 19 April 2013, concerning the situation of children and armed conflict affected by LRA, and called for their full implementation.

The Council also encouraged the United Nations, the African Union and ECCAS to work together, including through joint field assessments, to develop a common operating picture of the current capabilities and areas of operation of LRA, as well as to investigate its logistical networks and possible sources of military support and illicit financing, including alleged involvement in elephant poaching and related illicit smuggling.

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 14 May, the Council held its biannual debate on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko, introduced his report (see S/2013/263), which covered the period from 27 October 2012 to 20 April 2013. He indicated that during the reporting period the country had made little progress towards its self-proclaimed goals of joining the European Union and NATO. That situation was due to recurrent political crises in the country and to the hostile attitude of some of its leaders towards the Dayton Peace Agreement.

During the debate that followed the briefing, the Council members encouraged the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement the reforms needed to move the country forward. One member expressed the view that the High Representative's report did not present an objective analysis of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and advocated the abolition of the Office of the High Representative. Other members, in contrast, said that the Office could not be abolished because none of the five objectives (agreement on the apportionment of State property, apportionment of defence property, permanence of the special status of the Brcko District, fiscal sustainability and entrenchment of the rule of law) and two conditions (signing of a stabilization and association agreement with the European Union and positive assessment of the situation) necessary for its closure had been met. Another member said that the Office should be reduced to a scale consonant with its residual responsibilities.

Cyprus

On 30 May, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus, Alexander Downer, briefed the Council in informal consultations on his efforts to provide good offices with a view to the resumption of negotiations between the

Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities since the election on 24 February 2013 of Nicos Anastasiades as President of Cyprus.

Some members of the Council, while welcoming the announcement that negotiations between the two parties would resume, said that their understanding was that the Cypriot authorities' first priority was to deal with the unprecedented economic crisis affecting the country.

Several delegations urged the United Nations to continue its role in support of the parties in order to rebuild trust between the two communities during the current economic crisis.

Middle East

Lebanon (implementation of resolution 1559 (2004))

On 8 May, the Council held closed consultations in which the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004), Terje Roed-Larsen, introduced the semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution.

The Special Envoy said that during the reporting period no notable progress had been made in implementing the resolution, in particular with regard to respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon and efforts to ensure the country's unity and political independence. He referred to the activities of armed groups, stressing that the disbanding and disarmament of all militias had not yet been achieved. Cross-border arms smuggling continued and the Syrian-Lebanese border had not yet been delineated. He added that the Israel Defense Forces continued to violate Lebanese airspace. He said that the Syrian crisis had seriously affected the political situation in Lebanon. The policy of President Michel Sleiman of disassociating Lebanon from that crisis was not being fully implemented. In the social sphere, Lebanon was under severe strain as a result of its refugee population, as it had already taken in more than 540,000 Syrians and had always left its borders open despite shelling and airstrikes, which had killed and injured a number of Lebanese citizens.

In their statements, the Council members expressed deep concern about the lack of tangible progress in the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) and underlined the need for all the parties to meet their international obligations. They deplored the spillover of the Syrian conflict into Lebanon, in particular the inter-community violence and humanitarian crisis it had caused in that country. They called on all parties to the Syrian conflict to respect Lebanon's neutrality. Many Council members also expressed concern about Israel's violation of Lebanese airspace and called on Israel to cease those violations and withdraw from northern Lebanon. In addition, they emphasized the need to complete the delineation of the Syrian-Lebanese border without delay in order to put a stop to the arms smuggling that was taking place in the area.

Middle East peace process

On 22 May, at a public meeting, the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, Robert Serry, briefed the Council on the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question.

In his briefing, the Special Coordinator said that stability in the Middle East required action on two diplomatic fronts: the search for a solution to the Syrian conflict and the resumption of direct negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

In relation to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, he hailed the efforts being made by the United States Administration, including the personal engagement of President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry, to find a way to break the deadlock in the peace process. He also highlighted the renewed interest of regional stakeholders in the question, thanks in part to the visits made by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States and a delegation of Arab ministers and leaders to Washington in April 2013, during which the importance of the Arab Peace Initiative, first proposed in 2002, had been reaffirmed. He reported that there had been a number of incidents during the reporting period, including Israeli restrictions of access to holy sites in East Jerusalem and cases of administrative detention.

On the subject of the Syrian Arab Republic, he highlighted the escalation of violence and the worsening of the humanitarian crisis. He said that the Syrian crisis had repercussions in the area of operation of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). He welcomed the initiative of the United States and the Russian Federation to bring the parties to the Syrian crisis to the negotiating table and urged all stakeholders to cooperate for that purpose.

Referring to Lebanon, the Special Coordinator said that the Syrian crisis was putting that country under increasing pressure in the political, economic and security spheres. He reported that there had been incidents of shelling from the Syrian Arab Republic into Lebanese territory and a significant number of Lebanese fighters were involved in the Syrian conflict, notably from Hizbullah.

He concluded by saying that ending the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic was a matter of great urgency, but at the same time it would be dangerous to assume that a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was less important. The mounting risks to regional stability were real, and it was imperative that everyone should work collectively to lay the foundations for a better future for the Middle East.

In the closed consultations that followed the briefing, the members of the Council welcomed the efforts being made by the United States Administration for the resumption of direct negotiations. The United States delegation announced that Secretary of State John Kerry would undertake another mission to the region beginning on 23 May 2013.

Most of the Council members expressed concern about the current situation in the region, including the announcement of a new plan to build 300 housing units in the West Bank and the ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip. They also considered that the restrictions on religious freedom in East Jerusalem were very troubling. Many members condemned the firing of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israel and said that both parties should show restraint, promote mutual trust and commit themselves to the resumption of direct talks.

With respect to the Syrian Arab Republic, they welcomed the initiative of the United States and the Russian Federation to convene a conference in Geneva that would bring all the parties together, including the countries affected by the Syrian crisis.

United Nations Disengagement Observer Force

With respect to the current situation in the area of operations of UNDOF, on 7 May the Council members issued a statement to the press, in which they condemned the detention of four UNDOF peacekeepers from the Philippine battalion within the Area of Limitation in the vicinity of Al-Jamla by armed elements of the Syrian opposition, and demanded their unconditional and immediate release.

On 16 May, the Council issued a statement to the press on the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO). In that statement the Council members condemned the incident of 15 May in which a group of anti-Government armed elements had detained three United Nations military observers from the UNTSO Observer Group in Golan for several hours and had looted a United Nations observation post within the area of separation.

Thematic issues

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

On 7 May, the Council held a briefing on the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in particular its cooperation with the United Nations.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and Chairperson-in-Office of OSCE, Leonid Kozhara, briefed the Council on the priorities of his country's term of office at the helm of that organization. He indicated that Ukraine intended to modernize the politico-military instruments of OSCE, pursue disarmament efforts and continue to place the human dimension at the core of global security, while working to strengthen cooperation between the organization and the United Nations. He said that Ukraine planned to give new impetus to the resolution of deadlocked or protracted conflicts in the OSCE area, including those in Transnistria, Georgia and Nagorno Karabakh. As the security dimension was the major focus of OSCE action, Ukraine, he said, would emphasize the need to optimize mechanisms for early warning, preventing conflicts and responding to new challenges and threats that went beyond purely military and security considerations, such as drug trafficking, organized crime and cyberterrorism. The other core theme of Ukraine's term of office would concern the economic and environmental dimensions. During its term at the helm of OSCE, Ukraine planned to improve the environmental footprint of energy-related activities; focus on the human, humanitarian and democratic dimension of the entity's actions; and act more effectively to combat trafficking in persons.

The Council members acknowledged the major contribution of OSCE to the promotion of peace and security in its area of operation and welcomed the efforts made by the Ukrainian presidency in this regard. OSCE and the United Nations were encouraged to continue to strengthen their cooperation by drawing on each other's experiences in order to achieve better results. Some delegations expressed the hope that other regional organizations would benefit from the expertise of OSCE in various fields, including electoral processes and support for democratization processes, confidence- and security-building measures and counter-terrorism.

Subsidiary bodies of the Security Council

On 10 May, the Council heard briefings by the Chairs of the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004), which deal with sanctions against Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, counter-terrorism, and prevention of access to weapons of mass destruction by non-State actors, respectively.

On behalf of the three Committees, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) explained the cooperation between the Committees since the last Council briefing in November 2012 as well as directions for future endeavours. The Permanent Representatives of Australia, the Republic of Korea and Morocco, in their capacity as Chairs of the three Committees, each briefed the Council on key activities of the respective Committees and their expert groups. The Chairs declared their preparedness to hold regular meetings in order to improve the coordination of their work, not only in terms of assistance, information-sharing and outreach, but also in the planning and conduct of field visits and staff training.

The Council members congratulated the three Chairs on their work and recognized the importance of cooperation and coordination among the various Committees and expert groups.

On 16 May, the Council held consultations, for the presentation of the 90-day report of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006).

The Chair of the Committee, and Permanent Representative of Luxembourg, Sylvie Lucas, briefed the Council on the activities of the Committee, in particular regarding the follow-up to resolution 2094 (2013), including the reappointment of the members currently serving on the Panel of Experts and the procedure for the selection of an eighth expert, the adjustment of the Panel's reporting schedule, the drafting of a new implementation assistance notice as mandated by paragraph 22 of that resolution and the update of existing implementation assistance notices. The Chair informed the Council that the Committee had already approved an updated implementation assistance notice providing information to assist Member States in carrying out their obligations under Council resolutions 1718 (2006), 1874 (2009), 2087 (2013) and 2094 (2013). The Committee had also adopted and sent to all Member States a note verbale highlighting key elements of resolution 2094 (2013) related to States' reporting obligations set forth in that resolution, and informing them of the updates to the Consolidated List and the lists of items prohibited for export to and import from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The Chair reported that no national implementation reports had been received during the period under review, despite the requirements set out in paragraph 11 of resolution 1718 (2006), paragraph 22 of resolution 1874 (2009) and paragraph 25 of resolution 2094 (2013). The Committee was considering the Chair's proposal to hold an open briefing for all interested Member States on a date agreed by the Committee to share information about the work of the Committee and the Panel as part of the Committee's outreach efforts to further the implementation of the measures contained in the relevant resolutions. That proposal had also been included in the revised programme of work that was currently under consideration in the Committee.

Council members once again recalled their strong condemnation of the third nuclear test carried out by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 12 February 2013. Council members reaffirmed the need to maintain the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula and denuclearize the peninsula through dialogue and negotiation, and called for the resumption of the six-party talks. Concerning the report, they urged the Committee to continue its efforts, and stressed the necessity for the full cooperation of Member States with the Committee.

Peace and security in Africa

On 13 May, the Council held a debate on the theme "The challenges of the fight against terrorism in Africa in the context of maintaining international peace and security". The President of Togo, Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, personally presided over the meeting.

In his briefing to the Council, the Secretary-General said that terrorism was a threat to peace, security and development in Africa. Extremist groups and terrorist entities such as Al-Shabaab and Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb had entrenched their presence in several parts of the continent. Nonetheless, significant progress had been made towards restoring stability in Somalia since Al-Shabaab had been expelled from several strategic locations in the country. However, if the international community was to preserve and consolidate those gains, much remained to be done, especially with respect to the rule of law, development and political governance. Without a holistic and sustained approach to combating terrorism, there was a risk that the threat would simply be pushed from one area to another. It was equally necessary to strengthen the coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels. He welcomed the initiatives taken by several regional and subregional organizations to formulate counter-terrorism strategies, which would help the United Nations to identify common threats and challenges, prioritize responses, strengthen collaboration, improve coordination and target international assistance to themes and areas where it was most needed.

The Director General of the Intergovernmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa, Abdullahi Shehu, briefed the Council on his Group's activities to combat terrorism through measures adopted by the States of the subregion, in particular against money-laundering.

In his statement, the President of Togo said that terrorism was tied to poverty, weak governance, corruption and underdevelopment. In the areas where it established itself, terrorism eliminated any possibility of programmes for economic and social development. If African Governments were not given the means to conduct an effective and sustainable counter-terrorism policy by depriving terrorist groups of their armies, there was an alarming possibility that they could consolidate not just a terrorist arc, stretching from Mauritania to Nigeria and extending as far as the Horn of Africa, but also a lawless area available to traffickers from around the world. He affirmed that only a multi-pronged response, no longer a strictly military one, would make it possible to contain narco-terrorist criminal groups. In that regard, he said, it was essential to work on security issues together with development problems and the promotion of human rights. He declared that the international community therefore needed to develop, in consultation with the countries concerned, a global strategy embodied in a number of policy, diplomatic,

socioeconomic and security initiatives. Lastly, he urged partner countries to honour their commitments with respect to official development assistance and welcomed, in that connection, the decision by 11 States members of the European Union to launch a tax on international financial transactions.

In their statements, the representatives of the African Union, the European Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development noted that there had been a resurgence in terrorism, particularly in Africa, and stressed the need for the international community to take appropriate measures to combat it.

The Council members also recognized that, despite the concerted efforts of the international community over the past decade to end the phenomenon, terrorism remained a serious threat to peace and security in Africa. They recognized that, unless the international community showed real commitment, the "arc of instability" stretching from Mali to Somalia could become irreversible and transform the entire African continent into a breeding ground for extremists and a launch pad for larger-scale terrorist attacks around the world.

The Council members took the view that the most suitable approach for tackling the problem included the promotion of better socioeconomic and environmental conditions, with a focus on youth employment and education. To that end, they advocated the adoption of a comprehensive approach for increasing economic growth, promoting good governance, reducing poverty, building State capacity, extending social services and fighting corruption, particularly in Africa, but also in other regions.

They also recommended tighter border controls and the regulation of cross-border activities in order to promote appropriate policies and necessary socioeconomic activities, especially with a view to the integration of the African economies.

In the presidential statement adopted at that meeting (S/PRST/2013/5), the Council noted with deep concern that terrorism continued to pose a serious threat to international peace and security, the enjoyment of human rights and the social and economic development of States, and undermined stability and prosperity in Africa, in particular that the threat had become more diffuse, with an increase, in various regions of the world, in terrorist acts, including those motivated by intolerance and extremism.

It also noted the changing nature and character of terrorism in Africa, expressed concern regarding the connection, in many cases, between terrorism, transnational organized crime and illicit activities such as drugs, arms and human trafficking, and emphasized the need to enhance coordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to that serious challenge and threat to international peace and security.

The Council reaffirmed the need for African States to work closely and directly through the relevant bodies of the African Union and other regional frameworks for the implementation of enhanced measures for cooperation, mutual assistance and coordination between security agencies, prosecutors and judges, with a view to making the collective endeavours of Africa more effective and, specifically, more proactive, in combating terrorism, and emphasized the need to

take all necessary and appropriate measures in accordance with international law to include protections for the right to life and other human rights in Africa.

Lastly, the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit, within six months, a concise report providing a comprehensive survey and assessment of the work of the United Nations system to help national, subregional and regional entities in Africa in fighting terrorism, with a view to continuing consideration of possible steps in that regard.

In the context of counter-terrorism, on 24 May the Council issued a statement to the press on the terrorist attacks that had occurred in Agadez and Arlit, Niger, on 23 May. The members of the Council condemned in the strongest terms those attacks, for which the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa had claimed responsibility, and which had caused numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the victims of those heinous acts.

Terrorism

In a statement to the press issued on 13 May, the Council members condemned in the strongest terms the deadly terrorist attacks that had occurred on 11 May in Reyhanli, Turkey, which had resulted in the deaths of at least 46 people and dozens of injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the victims of those heinous acts and to the Government and people of Turkey.

With respect to the Asia-related items on the Council's agenda on 26 May, the members issued a statement to the press on the terrorist attack of 24 May in Kabul, condemning in the strongest terms the attack centred on a compound of a United Nations-affiliated organization, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), causing a number of deaths and injuries, including injuries among staff members of IOM and the International Labour Organization, responsibility for which had been claimed by the Taliban.

Ad hoc international criminal tribunals

On 25 May, the Council issued a statement to the press on the contribution of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in the fight against impunity. In that statement, the Council members recalled that 2013 marked the twentieth anniversary of Council resolution 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, by which the Council had unanimously established the Tribunal. They recognized the contribution of the Tribunal in the fight against impunity for the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.

The Council members welcomed the forthcoming commencement of the functioning of the Hague branch of the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals on 1 July 2013, and emphasized that the establishment of the Mechanism pursuant to resolution 1966 (2010) had been essential to ensure that the closure of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia did not leave the door open to impunity for the remaining fugitives and for those whose appeals had not been completed. The members of the Council reaffirmed their strong commitment to the fight against impunity.

Informal interactive dialogue on Kenya in regard to the International Criminal Court

On 23 May, the members of the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Permanent Representative of Kenya, Macharia Kamau, following a letter addressed to the Council in regard to the cases concerning post-election violence in 2007 against Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto, elected President and Vice-President of Kenya, respectively, in March 2013.

The Permanent Representative detailed the national efforts against impunity, such as the adoption of a new Constitution, the investigations of the Waki Commission which recommended the establishment of a special tribunal, the ongoing legal reforms, and prosecutions of thousands of cases. He confirmed the readiness of Mr. Kenyatta and Mr. Ruto to continue their cooperation with the International Criminal Court, but expressed his wish that the principles of justice and sovereignty be respected. He argued that the Court could not protect the Kenyan victims better than the Government of Kenya. He argued that the Council should send a clear message to the Court by way of a declaration in support of Kenya.

Council members noted that there was no legal basis, and the political reason supporting such a request was not clear. Some Council members understood the request to be a motion to the Security Council either to temporarily suspend the procedure pursuant to article 16 of the Statute of the Court, or to put an end to the prosecution. Some other Council members understood the Kenyan request to mean that the Council shall instruct the Court to expedite the procedure in order to conclude the cases as soon as possible.

Some Council members affirmed that even though the Council shall not influence the activities of the Court, they did not have any objection to the Council considering positively the Kenyan request. They added that Court activities should comply with the Charter of the United Nations, the principle of complementarity and the cultures of concerned countries. A Council member argued that sovereignty and justice should not undermine each other.

Other Council members emphasized the inappropriateness of the Council influencing activities of the Court. They stressed that Kenya is a party to the Rome Statute, and thus the Court is and remains the sole appropriate interlocutor for Kenya on this matter. Furthermore, they stressed that the Rome Statute, for good reasons, does apply equally to all persons without any distinction based on official capacity.

Implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507) (wrap-up session)

On 30 May, the Council held a private meeting (wrap-up session) on the implementation of the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2010/507). States not members of the Council were invited to participate in the meeting as observers. The aim of the meeting was to take stock of the work carried out in May, to highlight positive and negative points and to propose better approaches to the consideration of the items on the Council's agenda, with a view to enhancing efficiency.